



The Eastern Synod Lutheran Leaders' Edition

March 2017



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A Church in Mission for Others

- * We will practice Spirit-ed Discipleship.
- * We will pursue Com-
passionate Justice.
- * We will strive to be a
Healthy Synod.
- * We will build Effective
Partnerships.

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Mission Ideas Wanted!

When someone comes to you and says "I have an idea", please don't say no right away. Even the most creative people can take only so many "no's". Then they give up. Rather say "tell me more" or "let me think about it".

We need to be more creative. Traditional forms of ministry do not reach the mission of today. We have seen at the Apple Tree workshops how many as-sets our congregations have; people with various gifts, buildings, partners,

funds, etc. I can assure you that with your existing as-sets seasoned with a pinch of creativity you could do wonders.

"Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common." (Act 4:32)

I don't ask you to share everything you have but please, share your creative mission ideas with us. Ideas have no copyright. So, feel free to also share

those that you have seen, heard or read. Send your ideas to me by mail or email, and I will post them in the Leaders' Edition.

Also, if you have re-ceived funding from the Mission Committee, please, write a story about your project. We will share your stories in the Eastern Synod Newsletter, website and social media. Now, put your thinking cap on and let me hear from you!

Info Events in June. Mark Your Calendar!

Earlier this year, Bishop Susan Johnson sent out a letter advising of proposed changes to the Letters of Call and of new documents that better clarify the relationship between rostered ministers and congregations. These documents are posted on the ELCIC website.

<http://www.elcic.ca/Leadership/lettersofcall.cfm>

The letter stated, "It is our hope and expectation that these proposed changes will enhance the quality of our vocational relationships and deepen our bonds of

mutual care and account-ability."

We invite Congrega-tional Council Chairs, Congregational Treasur-ers and Rostered Lead-ers to a 75 minute presentation to review the content of these docu-ments, chaired by Bishop Michael Pyrse and facili-tated by Lisa Thiessen, ELCIC Group Services Inc.

Please choose one of these options to attend at

**Christ Lutheran Church
445 Anndale Rd,
Waterloo, ON N2K 1P8**

Monday June 19, 2017

at 1:30 pm (EST)

or

at 7 pm (EST)

or join us via Facebook live stream.

You can find us on Fa-
cebook at
<https://www.facebook.com/ESynodELCIC/>



Continuing Education Plan (CEP)

Engaging ELCIC Professional Leaders In Life-long Learning

Doug Reble



Rev. Doug Reble,
Assistant to the Bishop

Did you know that, according to the Letter of Call that outlines the responsibilities of both the called rostered minister and the calling congregation, our rostered ministers are required to participate in the Continuing Education Plan of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada? Why would this be?

Well, let's see what the ELCIC Group Services website says as they are the ones who administer the plan for all rostered ministers in the ELCIC :

"The reality is that the ELCIC expects our professional leaders to possess a thorough grounding in the Christian faith and Holy Scriptures coupled with an understanding of the world and society in which ministry must take place. Servant leaders need to grow continually in under-

standing and competence in order to be faithful in discipleship. The CEP of the ELCIC offers the means by which members may :

1. Further develop present knowledge and skills
2. Acquire new knowledge and skills
3. Experience growth for more effective ministry"

If you are a rostered minister reading this and you are not enrolled in the CEP, I would encourage you to re-think this and honour your call documents. We don't expect the congregational members entrusted to our care to stop growing in faith once they have graduated from Sunday School or been confirmed. Nor should we expect our own growing in faith and learning to end once we have been ordained or consecrated.

If you are a leader in your congregation reading this, I would invite you to inquire if your rostered minister is enrolled in the CEP and if not, why not. That is a question not just for the pastor or diaconal minister but also for the Congregational Council. At the

amount of \$25 monthly contribution by the member and \$50 monthly contribution by the employer, you would be honouring what you agreed to when the call documents were signed. The Continuing Education Plan of the ELCIC is a national program intended to engage and

support life-long learning among our rostered ministers. I'm sure you would agree that is what we need and want. To learn more, I invite you to go to the ELCIC Group Services Inc. website. Click on Plan Documents and scroll down to the CEP documents. It is well laid out. **Engage. Learn. Grow.**

Canada Lutheran

Eight times a year, a new package of news and inspiration arrives in subscribers' mailboxes. Each issue offers several feature articles that explore our faith and its role in our lives and of those around us. Regular columnists engage you in a lively dialogue on justice, faith and the future of the ELCIC.

Synod sections keep you abreast of the news both in your neighbourhood and across the country. News from international partners reminds us that we are indeed neighbours to the world. Each bishop has a regular column while Post gives everyone an opportunity to voice their opinion.

From the first issue in January 1986, *Canada Lutheran* has hoped to

enlighten and teach by sharing the stories of people living their faith creatively. Its pages have reflected the energy and commitment of people across the ELCIC and around the world to trust themselves to God's work whatever form it might take.

For congregations that are new to the *Canada Lutheran* magazine you can download this [letter](#) and present it to your church leader(s).

Subscription info:

<http://www.elcic.ca/clweb/subinfo.html>

Media Kit:

http://www.elcic.ca/clweb/documents/CL_Media-Kit_2015.pdf



Keith Myra
Treasurer of the
Synod

Has Your Congregation Considered Pre-Authorized Benevolence Remittances?

Keith Myra

No doubt you expect and encourage the members of your congregation to make their offerings on a regular basis throughout the year. The synod's cash flow requirements are no different. To meet the synod's budgetary needs, it is important that congregations remit their benevolence and other offerings on a regular (preferably monthly) basis.

Many congregations use the PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) program that provides a convenient means for their members to make regular, monthly offerings to the congregation. Did you realize

that this same convenience is available to your congregation to remit its benevolence offerings to the synod?

PAR, a program administered in cooperation with the Department of Stewardship Services of the United Church of Canada, provides an easy, efficient and reliable method for your congregation to remit its offerings to the Eastern Synod by electronic transfer from your congregational bank account. The cost of the program is covered by the synod. Withdrawals are made on congregation's bank account on the 20th of each month, or the following business day if the 20th falls on the weekend. The Eastern Synod's account

is credited on the same day.

Simply divide your annual benevolence commitment/budget (as well as any other regular remittances to the synod by twelve) to determine the amount of each monthly payment. Adjustments can be made at any time during the year. For further information or to participate in this program, follow the following links:

PAR Information: http://www.easternsynod.org/sites/default/files/content/par_remittance_prog.pdf

Congregational PAR Enrolment Form:

http://www.easternsynod.org/sites/default/files/content/par_authorization.pdf



NOVEXCO "OFFICE SUPPLIES" DISCOUNT PROGRAM

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) National Church has established a partnership with Buying United for ELCIC congregations and affiliate organizations for the Novexco "Office Supplies" Discount Program.

Buying United is a group purchasing program initiated by the United Church of Canada. The Buying United's program goals are to have savings in costs based on all participants volumes, to reduce an organizations time to do research on pricing, etc., and to handle customer complaints. The more partners in the program, the better negotiating power Buying United has with suppliers. Therefore, as a partner with Buying United, ELCIC congregations and affiliate organizations would share in the benefits of the negotiated reduced pricing.

The Novexco "Office Supplies" Discount Program is Canada wide. Participation in the program is voluntary and there is no cost to ELCIC congregations and affiliate organizations for joining the program.

The Novexco "Office Supplies" Discount Program includes discounts on commonly used office supplies as well as cleaning, kitchen and bathroom supplies.

To obtain your introductory letter to the Novesco "Office Supplies" Discount Program, please email orders@elcic.ca or call the ELCIC at 1-204-984-9150.

ELCIC Women of Faith Fund

The ELCIC Women of Faith Fund provides annual grants that encourage and facilitate the Christ-centred ministry of women within the ELCIC and In Mission for Others. This fund was established in 2011 in recognition of the “significant contribution of the women of the Evangelical Lutheran Women (ELW) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC)”. The fund came from the monies remaining after the dissolution of the ELW. Individuals or groups may make additional donations to the fund.

Grants from the ELCIC Women of Faith Fund will be available on an annual basis. The deadline for applications is MAY 1. Applicants will submit their proposals to the Women of Faith Fund Advisory Committee which is appointed by National Church Council.

Examples of ELCIC Women of Faith Funds Approved in previous years: Prayer Shawl Ministry, SK - \$1,500; Mustard Seed Family Support, BC - \$9,800; Happy Hearts Quilters, SK - \$2,000; Lutheran Women’s Retreat & Spring Connection – SK - \$1,500; Adopt a Room - Hope House Loft Retreat Area, MNO - \$2,000; Peer Partner Programme, ABT - \$3,000; If You Plant A Seed - Putting An Idea Into Action, Eastern - \$5,000; East-West Community Outreach, Eastern - \$7,690; Women in Leadership - Cameroon Companions, MNO - \$5,000. Twenty-eight projects were approved in 2016 (\$42,638 distributed). Further information and the application forms are on the ELCIC website, FaithFund.

STAPLES “COPY & PRINT” DISCOUNT PROGRAM

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) National Church has established a partnership with Buying United for ELCIC congregations and affiliate organizations for the Staples “Copy & Print” Discount Program.

Buying United is a group purchasing program initiated by the United Church of Canada. The Buying United’s program goals are to have savings in costs based on all participants volumes, to reduce an organizations time to do research on pricing, etc., and to handle customer complaints. The more partners in the program, the better negotiating power Buying United has with suppliers. Therefore, as a partner with Buying United, ELCIC congregations and affiliate organizations would share in the benefits of the negotiated reduced pricing.

The Staples “Copy & Print” Discount Program is Canada wide. Participation in the program is voluntary and there is no cost to ELCIC congregations and affiliate organizations for joining the program.

The Staples “Copy & Print” Program has discounts to help congregations and affiliate organizations with their printing needs. Items under this program include letter or legal size copies (black and white or colour), signs, banners, oversize colour printing, business cards, finishing, binding, mounting and laminating.

To obtain your introductory letter to the Staples “Copy & Print” Discount Program, please email orders@elcic.ca or call the ELCIC at 1-204-984-9150.